## **Utah Department of Workforce Services**





#### June 2002, Volume 12, Number 5

## **Current Indicators**

Utah's unemployment rate for April measured 5.7 percent. This is a movement downward from March's 5.9 percent reading (see page 9). Approximately 66,100 Utahns were unemployed in April 2002, a 46-percent increase from the 45,200 in April 2001, when the rate was 4.1 percent.

Utah's other primary indicator of current labor market conditions, the year-over change in the number of non-farm wage and salaried jobs, showed a loss of 1.2 percent, or 13,200 fewer jobs, for April 2002. Utah's economy is experiencing its first significant contraction in 20 years.

This can be looked at in various lights. One voice says its unfortunate that Utah's economy is contracting and that things are slow. The other voice says it's impressive that Utah's economy could go 20 years between contractions, particularly when the United States experienced two recessions in this time.

For the United States, the April 2002 unemployment rate moved up three-tenths of a point to 6.0 percent. Since its recent low of 3.9 percent in October 2000, the jobless rate has increased by 2.1 percentage points, and the number of unemployed persons has risen by 3.1 million. Despite the recent declarations of a positive economic direction — espoused by economic analysts who follow the United States' leading economic indicators — U.S. nonfarm employment is not reflecting gains. Nonfarm employment remains down by 1.0 percent from April 2001's total.

The graphs on page 5 illustrate the current dual nature of Utah's economy. Mining, construction, manufacturing, transportation/communications/utilities, and trade are all operating with fewer employees this April (compared against a year ago). These industries combined account for 46 percent of Utah's entire employment base. Their total job contraction equals 19,500. The remaining industries of finance/insurance/real estate,

services, and government make up the economy's remaining 54 percent, and combined have added 6,300 new jobs year-over. In summary, the smaller segment of the economy is having the largest influence on Utah's current downturn.

### Industry-by-Industry

The construction industry continues showing that this industry's long-anticipated slowdown is underway. It held on longer than expected by sustaining its pace into the end of last year, but the numbers so far this year are moving downward at a rapid pace. April's decline is 8.4 percent — a drop of 5,700 jobs.

Utah's manufacturing industries have been hit hard by this downturn and are employing their lowest number of workers — 119,900 — since 1994. Manufacturing employment in Utah peaked in late 1997 at 135,000 workers. Since then, it's been an unsteady decline — until 2000, when it turned into a steady and sharp decrease. The current employment represents an 11-percent decline since the 1997 peak. This current weakness is reflected in a decline in the number of hours worked, falling from 39 a year ago to 37. These fewer hours translate into a decline in average weekly earnings (see page 7).

The industry conglomeration of transportation/communications/utilities (T.C.U.) is another soft spot in the Utah economy. A 4.6-percent year-over drop represents a loss of 2,200 jobs. Trucking and the communications industry are the weak links. Trucking jobs are 1,400 fewer, but this shouldn't be a surprise as a national slowdown requires fewer goods to move over the nation's roads. The national slowdown was largely prompted by major readjustments that were needed within the country's technology sector. Excessive growth produced

inefficiencies and overcapacity. In response, we are seeing the communications industry in Utah drop about 500 jobs over the past year. One industry in this grouping holding up well is air transportation. Any cutbacks at Delta Airlines seem to be countered by gains at SkyWest Airlines.

Utah's trade industry is still showing employment declines, but the pace of decline is moderating. Last month, this industry showed a year-over decline of 2.3 percent. This month, that percentage has moderated to a decline of 1.7 percent. This industry employs approximately 163,600 Utahns, but this is 2,800 fewer than a year ago. Grocery, department, furniture, and home/garden stores all have fewer workers. Only restaurants and auto dealers/service stations are holding their own.

Enough with the down side! Let's look at the industries adding workers. Services is the state's largest employment industry with 318,500 workers. It grew by a rather mundane 0.5 percent year-over, but in this environment, any growth is welcomed. The computer industry is still having its woes, and it will probably continue to have such throughout the remainder of the year. Hotel employment is another weak area, but other services categories are helping cover these losses. Health care, engineering and management, legal services, personal services, and non-profit organizations are doing well and adding workers.

The finance/insurance/real estate grouping remains on the positive side of the employment ledger, but it is slipping. Several months ago, this division's employment growth was around 2.4 percent. Now its managing only 0.3 percent, an increase of 200 positions. Banking employment is down, and mortgage-lending activity is slowing.

Government employment grew by 2.3 percent, or 4,400 positions. Most of the government growth is centered in the educational components — whether it be state or local jurisdiction. This will continue to be a constant theme as Utah's economy progresses throughout this decade.

### Salt Lake-Ogden MSA

The Salt Lake-Ogden metro area's economy largely mirrors the overall state profile. The employment contraction is slightly less severe at 1.1 percent. Excluding the government sector, which is one of the few growth

areas, private sector employment is down by 1.7 percent. The same weak industries statewide — construction, manufacturing, T.C.U., and trade — affect this region.

#### **Provo-Orem MSA**

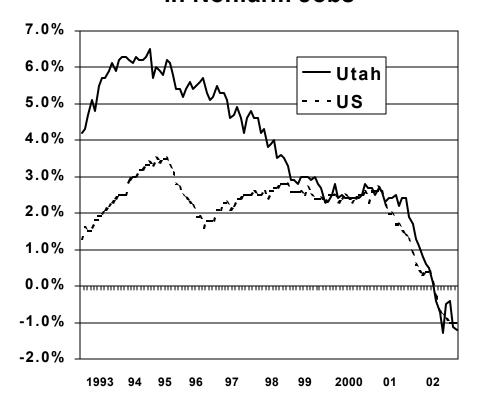
The Provo-Orem area, once the state's shining metropolitan economic jewel, is now the hardest hit. April's year-over employment total is down 2.3 percent. The closure of Geneva Steel has a lot to do with this, as the area's overall manufacturing employment is down 11.5 percent. Construction employment, though still historically high, is also falling — down nearly 3 percent. Services used to be this area's power-growth division, but has now slipped into declining numbers, falling by 2.1 percent. Computer-related businesses have been hit hard in this national downturn, and the Provo-Orem area has seen its share of closures and cutbacks.

#### **Around Utah**

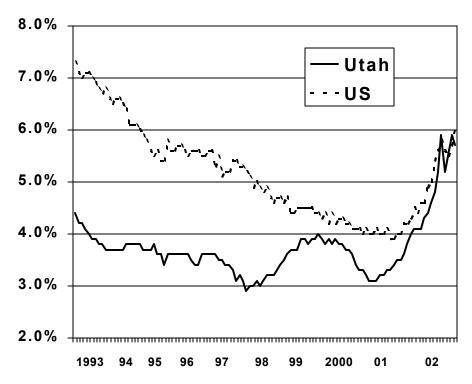
Outside of the metropolitan corridor, Utah's employment picture is a mixed bag. In what is an historical reversal, the state's strongest region is the Uintah Basin. The area's oil and gas activity is robust and the numbers reflect this (see page 8). Longtime strong performer Washington County continues being one of the state's resilient economies, but its neighbor to the north — Iron County — is experiencing a rare economic decline. So is Cache County at the top of the state, where losses in manufacturing, trade, and government have dropped this metropolitan county's economy by 3.3 percent. Summit, Box Elder, and Tooele counties are other noteable areas with economies currently in decline.

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# Year-Over Percent Change in Nonfarm Jobs



## Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates



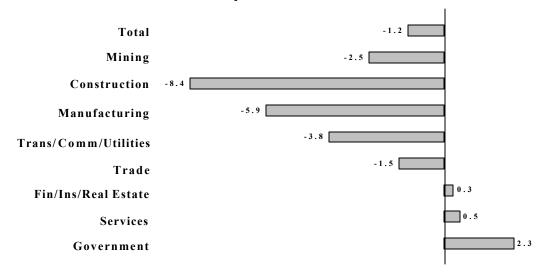
## Utah Nonagricultural Jobs by Industry and Components of the Labor Force

Numbers are in thousands and are not seasonally adjusted.	April (f) 2002	April 2001	Percentage Change	March (p) 2002	March 2001	Percentage Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	1,153.4	1,113.0	3.6	1,160.3	1,114.9	4.1
Employed	1,087.2	1,067.8	1.8	1,091.2	1,069.7	2.0
Unemployed	69.2	45.3	52.7	69.5	45.2	53.8
Unemployment Rate	5.7	4.1		5.9	4.1	
NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT	1,069.2	1,082.4	-1.2	1,066.2	1,079.6	-1.2
Mining	7.7	7.9	-2.5	7.5	7.8	-3.8
Metal Mining	1.8	2.2	-18.2	1.8	2.2	-18.2
Bituminous Coal Mining	1.4	1.5	-6.7	1.4	1.5	-6.7
Other Mining	4.5	4.2	7.1	4.3	4.1	4.9
Construction	61.9	67.6	-8.4	60.3	66.0	-8.6
Manufacturing	119.9	127.4	-5.9	120.4	129.1	-6.7
Durable Goods	79.4	84.8	-6.4	79.6	86.0	-7.4
Primary Metals	4.2	5.6	-25.0	4.3	5.8	-25.9
Fabricated Metals, Machinery, & Computers	19.2	21.5	-10.7	18.9	21.7	-12.9
Electrical/Electric Equipment (ex. Computers)	8.1	8.8	-8.0	8.3	9.1	-8.8
Transportation Equipment	12.8	14.3	-10.5	12.9	14.6	-11.6
Other Durable Goods	35.1	34.6	1.4	35.2	34.8	1.1
Non-durable Goods	40.5	42.6	-4.9	40.8	43.1	-5.3
Food & Kindred Products	12.5	12.5	0.0	12.5	12.6	-0.8
Other Non-durable Goods	28.0	30.1	-7.0	28.3	30.5	-7.2
Transportation, Communication, & Utilities	58.5	60.8	<b>-3.8</b>	58.5	60.7	<b>-3.6</b>
Railroad Transportation	1.8 19.4	1.9 20.8	-5.3 -6.7	1.8 19.4	1.9 20.9	-5.3 -7.2
Trucking & Warehouse Transportation by Air	15.2	20.6 15.1	-6.7 0.7	15.1	14.9	-7.2 1.3
Other Transportation & Related Services	5.2	5.4	-3.7	5.2	5.4	-3.7
Communications	10.2	10.7	-3.7 -4.7	10.3	10.7	-3.7
Electricity, Gas, & Sanitary Services	6.7	6.9	-2.9	6.7	6.9	-2.9
Trade	246.3	250.1	-1.5	245.3	249.0	-1.5
Wholesale Trade	50.3	51.1	-1.6	49.8	51.1	-2.5
Retail Trade	196.0	199.0	-1.5	195.5	197.9	-1.2
Food Stores	29.5	31.3	-5.8	29.4	30.9	-4.9
Auto Dealers/Parts Stores, & Gas Stations	23.9	22.6	5.8	24.1	22.4	7.6
Eating & Drinking Places	66.2	65.6	0.9	65.9	65.5	0.6
Home Furniture/Equipment & Clothing Stores	19.4	19.6	-1.0	19.2	19.8	-3.0
Gen. Merchandise, Building & Garden Supply	31.9	34.0	-6.2	31.3	33.2	-5.7
Miscellaneous Retail	25.1	25.9	-3.1	25.6	26.1	-1.9
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	59.4	59.2	0.3	59.5	59.4	0.2
Depository Institutions	16.9	17.1	-1.2	17.0	17.2	-1.2
Other Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	42.5	42.1	1.0	42.5	42.2	0.7
Services	318.5	316.8	0.5	319.6	315.6	1.3
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	18.6	19.5	-4.6	18.8	18.9	-0.5
Personal, Entertainment & Recreational	37.3	34.3	8.7	37.8	34.6	9.2
Computer-Related Business Services Other Business Services	25.0 57.8	28.8 57.7	-13.2 0.2	25.3 58.6	29.4 58.3	-13.9 0.5
Auto Repair/Rental/Parking	11.2	11.3	-0.9	11.3	11.3	0.0
Health Services	68.4	67.6	1.2	68.7	67.2	2.2
Education, Social, & Membership Organizations	58.0	56.1	3.4	58.0	56.0	3.6
Legal & Miscellaneous Services	6.3	6.1	3.3	6.3	6.1	3.3
Engineering, Accounting & Management	24.8	24.7	0.4	24.8	24.6	0.8
Other Repair, Ag. Services, & Museums	11.1	10.7	3.7	10.0	9.2	8.7
Government	197.0	192.6	2.3	195.1	192.0	1.6
Federal Government	33.9	34.0	-0.3	33.6	33.4	0.6
U.S. Defense	14.2	13.6	4.4	14.2	13.5	5.2
Other Federal	19.7	20.4	-3.4	19.4	19.9	-2.5
State Government	60.3	59.7	1.0	59.9	59.7	0.3
State Schools	33.9	32.8	3.4	33.7	32.7	3.1
Other State	26.4	27.3	-3.3	26.2	27.0	-3.0
Local Government	102.8	98.9	3.9	101.6	98.9	2.7
Local Education	63.6	62.1	2.4	63.2	62.4	1.3
Other Local	39.2	37.8	3.7	38.4	36.3	5.8
Private Sector	872.2	889.8	-2.0	871.1	887.6	-1.9

Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services, Workforce Information; 5/1/02.

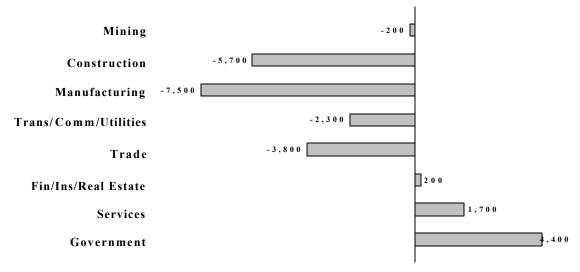
f = forecast p = preliminary

## Utah Nonfarm Job Growth (Percent Change) April 2001 – 2002



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services

## Utah Nonfarm Employment Changes April 2001 – 2002



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services

## NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY and COMPONENTS OF THE LABOR FORCE OF UTAH'S METROPOLITAN AREAS

Salt Lake City - Ogden MSA

**Provo - Orem MSA** 

Numbers are in thousands,	Apr	il	Percent	Mar.	Feb.	Apri	l	Percent	Mar.	Feb.
not seasonally adjusted.	2002(p)	2001	Change	2002(p)	2002(p)	2002(p)	2001	Change	2002(p)	2002(p)
Civilian Labor Force	725.5	699.4	3.7	728.4	728.6	176.7	171.0	3.3	177.4	176.7
Employed	686.2	672.6	2.0	685.7	687.7	166.8	165.5	0.8	166.2	165.8
Unemployed	39.3	26.8	46.6	42.7	40.9	9.9	5.5	80.0	11.2	10.9
Unemployment Rate	5.4	3.8		5.9	5.6	5.6	3.2		6.3	6.2
Total Nonagricultural Employment	712.8	720.5	-1.1	710.4	712.3	152.0	155.6	-2.3	151.3	150.8
Mining	2.3	2.7	-14.8	2.2	2.3	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1
Construction	41.4	43.7	-5.3	40.4	39.7	10.0	10.3	-2.9	9.8	9.8
Manufacturing	76.9	80.4	-4.4	77.1	77.2	16.9	19.1	-11.5	16.9	16.9
Durable Goods	52.2	55.1	-5.3	52.4	52.5	7.3	7.8	-6.4	7.4	7.4
Non-durable Goods	24.7	25.3	-2.4	24.7	24.7	9.6	11.3	-15.0	9.5	9.5
Trans., Comm., & Utilities	45.8	48.0	-4.6	45.8	46.2	2.5	2.6	-3.8	2.5	2.5
Trade	163.6	166.4	-1.7	162.8	162.7	32.9	33.8	-2.7	32.7	32.7
Wholesale Trade	39.9	40.2	-0.7	39.6	39.5	5.4	5.7	-5.3	5.4	5.4
Retail Trade	123.7	126.2	-2.0	123.2	123.2	27.5	28.1	-2.1	27.3	27.3
Finance, Insur., & Real Estate	49.3	48.6	1.4	49.5	49.5	5.1	4.7	8.5	5.0	4.9
Services	207.1	206.7	0.2	207.7	210.6	61.8	63.1	-2.1	61.9	61.7
Government	126.4	124.0	1.9	124.9	124.1	22.7	21.9	3.7	22.4	22.2
Federal Government	28.4	28.0	1.4	27.9	27.9	1.0	1.1	-9.1	1.0	1.0
State Government	41.5	41.0	1.2	41.2	40.4	5.8	5.7	1.8	5.8	5.6
Local Government	56.5	55.0	2.7	55.8	55.8	15.9	15.1	5.3	15.6	15.6
Private Sector	586.4	596.5	-1.7	585.5	588.2	129.3	133.7	-3.3	128.9	128.6

Notes: The Salt Lake City-Ogden Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) is comprised of Salt Lake, Davis, and Weber counties.

The Provo-Orem MSA is Utah County.

Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services, Workforce Information, 05/22/02.

#### **HOURS AND EARNINGS - UTAH**

Hours and Earnings for Production and Nonsupervisory Personnel

#### **Average Hourly Earnings**

#### Average Weekly Hours

#### Average Weekly Earnings

	April 2002(p)	<u>2001</u>	% <u>Chg.</u>	March 2002(r)	<u>April</u> 2002(p)	<u>2001</u>	% <u>Chg.</u>	March 2002(r)	<u>April</u> 2002(p)	<u>2001</u>	% <u>Chg.</u>	March 2002(r)
Mining	\$18.13	\$18.72	-3.2	\$18.25	46.4	43.2	7.4	47.7	\$841.23	\$808.70	4.0	\$870.53
Metal Mining	19.50	18.88	3.3	19.58	44.5	46.2	-3.7	44.9	867.75	872.26	-0.5	879.14
Manufacturing	14.22	13.88	2.4	13.97	37.3	39.3	-5.1	38.0	530.41	545.48	-2.8	530.86
Durable Goods	14.69	14.40	2.0	14.41	37.6	39.8	-5.5	38.6	552.34	573.12	-3.6	556.23
Primary Metals	22.55	22.08	2.1	22.35	41.0	43.5	-5.7	41.4	924.55	960.48	-3.7	925.29
Fabricated Metal Prod. & Mach.	14.84	14.57	1.9	15.03	36.1	37.0	-2.4	36.6	535.72	539.09	-0.6	550.10
Transportation Equipment	19.06	16.10	18.4	17.67	42.3	41.8	1.2	44.9	806.24	672.98	19.8	793.38
Nondurable Goods	13.16	12.63	4.2	12.97	36.5	38.2	-4.5	36.7	480.34	482.47	-0.4	476.00
Food and Kindred Products	12.37	12.14	1.9	12.72	36.5	40.1	-9.0	35.7	451.51	486.81	-7.3	454.10
Trade	11.27	10.97	2.7	11.51	29.0	30.2	-4.0	29.0	326.83	331.29	-1.3	333.79
Wholesale	13.96	13.96	0.0	14.44	38.5	41.9	-8.1	39.1	537.46	584.92	-8.1	564.60
Retail	10.38	9.93	4.5	10.55	26.8	27.5	-2.5	26.8	278.18	273.08	1.9	282.74
General Merchandise	10.10	9.87	2.3	10.88	30.1	28.7	4.9	29.6	304.01	283.27	7.3	322.05
Food Stores	11.19	11.01	1.6	11.31	28.5	29.3	-2.7	28.8	318.92	322.59	-1.1	325.73

#### HOURS AND EARNINGS - Salt Lake City - Ogden MSA

#### **Average Hourly Earnings**

#### **Average Weekly Hours**

#### Average Weekly Earnings

	<u>April</u> 2002(p)	<u>2001</u>	% <u>Chg.</u>	March 2002(r)	April 2002(p)	<u>2001</u>	% <u>Chg.</u>	March 2002(r)	<u>April</u> 2002(p)	<u>2001</u>	% <u>Chg.</u>	<u>March</u> 2002(r)
Mining	\$19.08	\$18.78	1.6	\$19.22	42.2	44.1	-4.3	42.3	\$805.18	\$828.20	-2.8	\$813.01
Manufacturing	14.52	13.63	6.5	14.34	35.2	37.5	-6.1	35.8	511.10	511.13	0.0	513.37
Durable Goods	14.49	13.45	7.7	14.36	34.8	37.0	-5.9	35.5	504.25	497.65	1.3	509.78
Nondurable Goods	14.60	14.05	3.9	14.31	35.9	38.6	-7.0	36.6	524.14	542.33	-3.4	523.75
Trade	11.57	11.50	0.6	11.78	29.3	30.9	-5.2	29.8	339.00	355.35	-4.6	351.04
Wholesale	14.08	14.62	-3.7	14.58	37.2	40.9	-9.0	38.7	523.78	597.96	-12.4	564.25
Retail	10.57	10.21	3.5	10.65	27.0	28.0	-3.6	27.3	285.39	285.88	-0.2	290.75

Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services, Workforce Information.

#### **NONFARM EMPLOYMENT IN UTAH'S COUNTIES**

	April 2002(p)	April 2001(p)	Percent Change	March 2002(p)	February 2002(p)
State Total	1,069,400	1,083,820	-1.3	1,066,600	1,068,100
Bear River	58,723	60,728	-3.3	59,110	59,360
Box Elder	16,867	17,470	-3.5	16,858	16,976
Cache	41,363	42,772	-3.3	41,780	41,932
Rich	493	486	1.5	472	453
Wasatch Front	725,825	733,773	-1.1	723,449 0	725,462
North	176,781	176,232	0.3	174,701	173,738
Davis	88,184	86,402	2.1	86,595	85,757
Morgan	1,692	1,628	4.0	1,649	1,665
Weber	86,904	88,202	-1.5	86,457	86,316
South	549,044	557,541	-1.5	548,748	551,724
Salt Lake	537,712	546,041	-1.5	537,348	540,227
Tooele	11,333	11,500	-1.5	11,400	11,497
Mountainland	172,007	176,203	-2.4	173,178	173,311
Summit	15,454	16,005	-3.4	17,384	17,791
Utah	152,000	155,646	-2.3	151,300	151,000
Wasatch	4,554	4,552	0.0	4,494	4,521
Central	21,027	21,434	-1.9	20,772	20,725
Juab	2,665	2,621	1.7	2,645	2,651
Millard	3,442	3,475	-1.0	3,427	3,472
Piute	289	285	1.4	277	287
Sanpete	6,479	6,847	-5.4	6,428	6,379
Sevier	7,045	7,108	-0.9	6,969	6,977
Wayne	1,107	1,098	0.8	1,026	959
Southwestern	56,565	56,176	0.7	55,570	55,398
Beaver	1,799	1,864	-3.5	1,773	1,761
Garfield	2,019	2,170	-6.9	1,648	1,556
Iron	13,086	13,824	-5.3	13,178	13,360
Kane	2,965	2,873	3.2	2,746	2,603
Washington	36,696	35,445	3.5	36,225	36,117
Uintah Basin	15,473	15,193	1.8	15,331	15,152
Daggett	381	403	-5.3	315	285
Duchesne	5,216	5,020	3.9	5,134	5,122
Uintah	9,875	9,770	1.1	9,882	9,745
Southeastern	19,780	20,313	-2.6	19,190	18,691
Carbon	8,318	8,551	-2.7	8,321	8,347
Emery	3,403	3,544	-4.0	3,342	3,331
Grand	4,340	4,305	0.8	4,028	3,529
San Juan	3,718	3,913	-5.0	3,499	3,484
Salt Lake-Ogden MSA	712,800	720,645	-1.1	710,400	712,300

p = preliminary r = revised but not final.

Note: Numbers have been left unrounded for convenience rather than to denote accuracy. Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services, Workforce Information, 05/22/02.

#### **Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates**

	April 2002(p)	March 2002(r)	February 2002(r)	April 2001(r)
State Total	5.7	5.9	5.5	4.1
Bear River	4.6	5.2	4.9	3.6
Box Elder	6.8	7.4	7.0	5.2
Cache	3.8	4.4	4.1	3.0
Rich	5.1	5.5	5.1	4.9
Wasatch Front	5.7	6.0	5.6	4.0
North	5.3	5.6	5.3	4.4
Davis	4.6	4.8	4.5	3.8
Morgan	4.8	5.1	4.7	3.6
Weber	6.2	6.6	6.3	5.1
South	5.9	6.1	5.7	3.8
Salt Lake	5.8	6.0	5.6	3.7
Tooele	9.4	9.7	9.1	7.4
Mountainland	6.0	6.5	6.1	3.6
Summit	8.8	8.4	6.7	5.2
Utah	5.7	6.2	6.0	3.4
Wasatch	7.7	8.4	8.3	5.2
Central	6.5	7.5	6.6	5.1
Juab	8.0	8.4	8.0	4.9
Millard	5.9	6.3	5.3	4.4
Piute	5.9	7.4	5.3	6.8
Sanpete	7.5	9.1 6.2	6.9 6.4	6.1 4.5
Sevier	5.4 4.7	5.7	6.4	4.5
Wayne				
Southwestern	4.6	5.1	4.9	4.2
Beaver	4.0	4.9	5.0	3.9
Garfield	12.5	15.1	11.8	10.1
Iron	5.3	5.5	5.1	4.5
Kane	6.0	4.4	4.1	4.1
Washington	3.7	4.2	4.4	3.7
Uintah Basin	6.5	6.9	6.6	4.7
Daggett	4.3	4.2	5.0	4.6
Duchesne	7.0	7.6	8.1	5.9
Uintah	6.3	6.6	5.9	4.2
Southeastern	7.1	8.0	7.4	7.6
Carbon	6.0	6.5	6.0	6.6
Emery	7.9	9.7	9.7	9.2
Grand	7.1	8.5	6.9	6.6
San Juan	8.9	8.9	9.1	9.2
Salt Lake-Ogden MSA United States	5.7 6.0	5.9 5.7	5.5 5.5	3.9 4.5

p=preliminary r=revised

Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services, Workforce Information.



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## Jtah Labor Market Report

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(p) - preliminary (r) - revised

(f) - forecast

Salt Lake - Ogden Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) -- Salt Lake,

Davis, and Weber counties. Provo-Orem MSA -- Utah County

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Utah Department of Workforce Services is to provide quality, accessible, and comprehensive employment-related and supportive services responsive to the needs of the employers, job seekers, and the community.

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